(b) what is the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to check this nefarious smuggling activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) According to the reports received by the Government, the particulars of narcotics seized and the number of persons arrested in Delhi during the months of May and June, 1985 are as under:—

Drug	No. of cases	Qty. seized (in Kgs.)	No. of persons arrested
Opium .	3	8.400	2
Charas .	4	514.775	2
Heroin .	2	19.550	3

(c) A draft for comprehensive legislation on narcotic drugs and pschotropic substances, *inter alia* providing for different punishment to check smuggling of such drugs and substances, is at advanced stage of finalisation for introduction in Parliament.

The field formations remain vigilant to check smuggling including that of narcotics. Appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. Close co-operation with the concerned international agencies is also maintained to curb smuggling of the drugs;

Rules and Regulations for Permitting Disinvestment of Equity by Foreign Investors

67. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the rules and regulations for permitting disinvestment of equity by a foreign investor other than NRI;

(b) whether these guidelines are available in any pried publication; if so, what is the name thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps Government are taking to make it make it easily available to public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India being the statutory authority, considers proposals under the provisions of FERA, 1973 for disinvestment of equity shares held by the foreign investors on merits. Specific guidelines in this regard have not been issued/published by Government.

Abolition of export duty on Pepper

68. SHRI M.M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the pepper growers regarding abolition of export duty on pepper; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure remunerative price for the pepper growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pepper prices are continuing to be remunerative to the growers. The situation is kept under constant review.

India's Exports

69. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of rise in India's exports during the last six months; and

(b) what are the names of the countries to which exports have shown a rising trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) According to the provisional trade statistics available from DGCI&S, the exports during October-March, 1984-85 were Rs. 6176. 88 crores, which were 23.7 per cent higher than the corresponding provisional figure of Rs. 4991.73 crores during the period October-March, 1983-84.

(b) The names of the principal countries to which exports have shown a rising trend during April-December, 1984 as compared to April-December, 1983, for which period date is readily available are: USA, USSR, Japan, UK. Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy Netherlands, Australia, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Indonesial, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Poland, Quatar, Romania, Srilanka, Swaziland and Yugoslavia.

Losses Suffered by STC in the Purchase of Newsprint

70. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation recently suffered heavy loss in the purchase of newsprint;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of loss suffered; and

(c) what are the reasons for such loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps for efficient recovery of taxes by Income Tax Department

71. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps his Ministry have taken for the clearing up of the Income Tax Department at all levels and for the removal of all interference in the assessment and recovery of taxes from the bigger assessees; and

(b) in view of the fact that concealed income and wealth are manifestations of the increasing inequality in the distribution of fruits of planned development, what corrective measures Government propose to take for the eradication of concealed income and wealth to reduce or eliminate black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Government is fully committed to take vigorous measures against tax evaders and rise of black money. All possible measures to check circulation and prevent further proliferation of black money, including administrative, legislative and institutional are being taken from time to time.

Rise in the Prices of Consumer Goods

72. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:
DR. H. P. SHARMA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise in the wholesale and retail prices of consumer goods till now after the presentation of the last Budget for the year 1985-86; and

(b) what further measures Government propose to take to put a halt to the steady upward trend of prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Changes in wholesale prices and retail prices of consumer goods are reflected in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI) respectively. While the CPI went up by 2.4 per cent between March, 1985 and May, 1985 (the latest available) the WPI increased by 1.5 per cent in the two weeks after the presentation of the Budget (*i.e.* between 16-3-1985 and 30-3-1985.) During the current financial year so far, *i.e.* up to 6-7-1985, the WPI has registered an increase of 3.9 per cent against 5.8 per cent in the corresponding period 1984-85 and 5.1 per cent in 1983-84.

The thrust of Government's anti-inflationary policy continues to be on effective demand and supply management including strengthening of public distribution system, enforcement of fiscal discipline and keeping the aggregate liqui-